

## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 16, 2003. Claims 1, 3, 5, 12, 14, 16, 23, 25, and 27 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 12, and 23, which are the independent claims, have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, in terms that distinguish over the art of record. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 3, 5, 12, 14, 16, 23, 25, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,249,316 B1 (Anderson) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,764,800 (Yamagata). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 1, 12, and 23, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the proposed combination of the cited prior art at least for the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is an image pickup apparatus that includes an image pickup device, an image processing device, a storage control device, a display control device, a compression encoding device, and an output device. The image pickup device picks up an image of an object to output an image signal, and the image processing device processes the image signal to generate first-resolution image data and second-resolution image data having a resolution which is not higher than that of the first-resolution image data. The storage control device stores, in a memory, the first- and second-resolution image data of image signals of a series of frames which are obtained by consecutively picking up the image of the object. The display control device displays the second-resolution image data of the series of frames stored in the memory on a display screen, immediately after image pick up of the series of frames, and the

compression encoding device compresses and encodes, at a predetermined compression ratio, the first-resolution image data. The output device outputs compressed and encoded image data of a desired frame from the compressed and encoded image data of the series of frames of the image to a non-volatile memory in response to selecting the desired frame.

Among the notable features of Claim 1 are that the image pickup apparatus stores, in a memory (11), first and second resolution image data of a series of frames of an object (e.g., shots 1-3 in Figure 1) which are consecutively picked up by an image pickup device, and displays the second resolution image data of the series of stored frames immediately after the image pickup of the series of frames. (It is to be understood, of course, that the scope of Claim 1 is not limited to the details of this embodiment.)

Anderson, as understood by Applicants, relates to a method and system for creating a temporary group of images on a digital camera. Initially, Applicants note that the Office Action states (and Applicants agree) that Anderson is silent with regard to compressing and encoding image data before storing the data in a DRAM 346. In Anderson, Figures 4-6 display thumbnail images (low resolution images). The screens of Figures 4-6 are displayed in a review mode which begins by pressing a button other than a photo button 404 (see, e.g., column 4, line 63, to column 5, line 5, and column 5, lines 24-33). Images displayed in the review mode are those which have already been picked up by pressing the photo button and then stored in memory. As described above, the review mode begins by pressing not the photo button but any other button. Applicants submit, therefore, that nothing has been found in Anderson that would teach or suggest the display control device functioning together with the image processing device and the storage control device, i.e., an image pickup apparatus that stores, in a memory, first and second resolution image data of a series of frames of an object which are consecutively picked up

by an image pickup device, and displays the second resolution image data of the series of stored frames immediately after the image pickup of the series of frames, as recited in Claim 1.

Yamagata, as understood by Applicants, relates to an image data recompression device. The Office Action states that Yamagata discloses an electronic camera that compresses and encodes captured image data using the JPEG algorithm before storing it in a memory. Applicants submit that even if Yamagata discloses this feature that nothing has been cited in the Office Action, or found in Yamagata, that would teach or suggest an image pickup apparatus that stores, in a memory, first and second resolution image data of a series of frames of an object which are consecutively picked up by an image pickup device, and displays the second resolution image data of the series of stored frames immediately after the image pickup of the series of frames, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that at least for these reasons, Claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art, when taken separately or in any proposed combination.

Independent Claims 12 and 23 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, that correspond to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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